

## Special Collections Pathway — Required and Recommended Courses

If an MLIS student takes all foundational and strongly recommended courses, this career path will meet the Association of College and Research Librarians' recommendations for graduate program specialization in special collections librarianship.<sup>1</sup>

REQUIRED MLIS CORE (13 CREDIT HOURS)		
LIS 60020	Information Organization	3
LIS 60030	People in the Information Ecology	3
LIS 60040	Information Institutions and Professions	3
LIS 60050	Research and Assessment in Library and Information Science	3
LIS 60280	Master's Portfolio in Library and Information Science	1

FOUNDATIONAL COURSE (3 CREDIT HOURS)		
LIS 60665	Rare Books and Special Collections	3

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED COURSES (CHOOSE AT LEAST 12 CREDITS)		
LIS 50657	Introduction to Digital Humanities	3
LIS 60635	Cultural Heritage Informatics	3
LIS 60652	Foundations of Recordkeeping in Society	3
LIS 60654	Preservation and Conservation of Heritage Materials	3
LIS 60657	Theory and Methods of Archival Acquisition, Selection and Appraisal	3
LIS 60658	Theory and Practice of Archival Description	3
LIS 60692	Internship in Information and Cultural Heritage Institutions	2-3

<sup>1</sup>The ACRL/ALA Competencies for Special Collections Librarianship were last revised in 2017 and may be found on the ACRL website.  
<http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/comp4speccollect>

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED COURSES (CHOOSE AT LEAST 9 CREDITS ACCORDING TO AREA OF INTEREST)		
<i>Special Collections in Academic and Public Libraries</i>		
LIS 60401	Leadership in Libraries and Information Centers	3
LIS 60602	Resource Description and Access	3
LIS 60608	The Public Library	3
LIS 60614	Collection Management in Libraries	3
LIS 60615	The Academic Library	3
LIS 60618	Information Literacy Initiatives and Instruction	3
<i>Digital Special Collections</i>		
LIS 60510	Digital Technologies I: Data Fundamentals	1
LIS 60511	Digital Technologies II: Internet Fundamentals	1
LIS 60631	Introduction to Digital Preservation (prerequisites = LIS 60510, 60511)	3
LIS 60651	Digital Imaging and Collections Management	3
<i>Special Collections in Museums and Local History Organizations</i>		
LIS 60700	Foundations of Museum Studies	3
LIS 60701	Museum Collections (prerequisite = LIS 60700)	3
LIS 60702	Museum Communication (prerequisite = LIS 60700)	3
LIS 60703	Museum Users (prerequisite = LIS 60700)	3
LIS 60704	The Museum System (prerequisite = LIS 60700)	3

## Special Collections Pathway — Additional Information and Resources

### **Other related pathways:**

Archival Studies; Museum Studies; Digital Humanities

### **Additional professional skills relevant for special collections work:**

Language skills relevant to collections; grantwriting; basic preservation skills.

### **Professional organizations:**

American Library Association (ALA)  
 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL):  
     Rare Books and Manuscripts Section  
 Rare Book School (University of Virginia)  
 The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing  
     (SHARP)  
 Society of American Archivists

### **Recommended professional/disciplinary journals with articles relating to special collections:**

*The American Archivist*  
*RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage*  
*Archival Science*  
*Archivaria*  
*Archival Issues*

### **Sample job titles:**

Collections Archivist  
 College Archivist  
 Curator of Books  
 Curator of Literary Collections  
 Curator of Special Collections  
 Manuscripts Archivist  
 Project Archivist  
 Rare Books Librarian  
 Special Collections Librarian  
 Special Collections Processing Archivist